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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 42

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to create a joint committee to study the need to require the use of seatbelts in all vehicles used to transport school children in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, a number of accidents involving school buses occur each year in the United States, sometimes involving fatalities, some of which result from ejection of student passengers; and

WHEREAS, at present, manufacturers do not equip school buses with seatbelts for the passenger seats; and

WHEREAS, in discussions concerning remedies for the death and injuries to student passengers of school buses, certain safety experts maintain that seatbelts installed on school bus passenger seats as they are presently configured could result in even more injuries in certain types of accidents; and

WHEREAS, the need to provide the maximum possible safety for children passengers in school transportation accidents is of paramount importance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That a special joint committee consisting of three members of the House of Representatives and three members of the Senate be appointed by the Speakers of the respective chambers to conduct a study of whether or not the installation of safety belts should be required on seats for the driver and all passengers of any motor vehicle, including buses, leased or owned by public or private primary or secondary school systems in this state and intended to be used to transport students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That at least one member from each chamber shall be a member of the Education Committee and at least one member of each chamber shall be a member of the Transportation Committee of their respective chambers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and shall be paid as members of the General Assembly are paid for attending legislative meetings as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting, shall elect a chair, vice-chair and such other officers as the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate agencies of state government shall provide assistance to the special committee, upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Second General Assembly no later than February 28, 2002, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.